

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY & SUPPORTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

2020 Program Guidelines

The Tompkins County 2020 Annual Budget includes \$50,000 to support municipalities working to address the community's housing shortage. In particular, this program is intended to:

- Increase the number of municipalities applying for state or federal funding related to housing affordability, including Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), HOME, and New York State Consolidated Funding Applications (CFA), and to increase the success of these applications.
- Increase the supply of housing that is available and affordable for Tompkins County residents.
- Increase the development of housing in Tompkins County locations with access to existing infrastructure and amenities and low transportation costs.
- Improve and maintain the affordability of existing housing.

Applicant and Project Eligibility

The proposed project must meet all of the following minimum requirements:

- Only municipal governments are eligible to apply for these funds.
- The project must support housing affordability.
- The County cost will be no more than 90% of the total project cost.
- Projects must have a reasonable expected completion date within nine months of award date.
- Projects may request no more than \$10,000 in County funds.
- Funding may be used to hire consultants or to add staff time to perform the following:
 1. Write and/or administer grants
 2. Prepare zoning amendments to meet program intentions
 3. Conduct research necessary to increase housing development and lower housing costs
 4. Develop infrastructure studies
- Funding may also be used to implement infrastructure improvements that support affordable housing development (ex. sidewalk connections, water and sewer connections).

Project Priority Criteria

The proposed project must substantially address at least two of the objectives in each of the following three categories:

- Impact on Housing Affordability
 - Ability to complete project in less than nine months
 - Address housing shortage for underserved market segments
 - Increase neighborhood diversity (unit types, price points, underserved groups)
 - Increase supply of affordable housing
- Supports Tompkins County and Local Comprehensive Plans
 - In or near a Development Focus Area
 - Compatible with Municipality's Comprehensive Plan
 - Compatible with County's Comprehensive Plan and Housing Strategy
 - County or Locally adopted Energy Goals
- Local Match and Support
 - Cash or in-kind match of no less than 10%
 - Support from the municipality's planning board, elected body, town supervisor or mayor

Process

Project proposals for 2020 will be accepted by the Tompkins County Department of Planning and Sustainability (TCDPS) on a rolling basis from February 28, 2020 until November 1, 2020. Proposals seeking ≤ \$5,000 of County funds will be reviewed by TCDPS staff based on the Applicant and Project Eligibility and Project Priority Criteria. The Commissioner of Planning and Sustainability will be authorized to approve applications for ≤ \$5,000 that clearly meet the letter and intent of the program. Projects applying for more than \$5,000 will be brought to the relevant committee of the Tompkins County Legislature and then to the full Legislature for approval.

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